UNITARIAN WORD & WORK

FEBRUARY 1917

The Monthly Bulletin of the American Unitarian Association, The Alliance of Unitarian Women, Young People's Religious Union, and The Unitarian Temperance Society

Publication Department

AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

25 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts

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THE UNITARIAN NATIONAL SOCIETIES

REPRESENTED IN THIS ISSUE OF WORD AND WORK

ALL OF THESE SOCIETIES have their headquarters in the building of the American Unitarian Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. The names of the principal officers of each society will be found on the first pages of the sections devoted to their respective organizations. The work and purpose of these societies may be stated in brief as follows:

THE AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

THE ASSOCIATION was founded in 1825, its object being "to diffuse the knowledge and promote the interests of pure Christianity." In furtherance of this purpose the Association publishes books, reports, and tracts; supports missionaries; establishes and maintains churches, and aids in supporting ministers; assists students in preparing for the ministry; and helps fellow-citizens of foreign birth and speech in entering upon their American life. It administers endowments for the benefit of schools and churches of the Unitarian order; for the relief of poor and worthy ministers and the widows of ministers; for providing public lectures in centers of population; for the benefit of schools for colored people in the South; and for many other beneficent purposes.

THE ALLIANCE OF UNITARIAN WOMEN

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE was organized in 1890, and has for its aims primarily to quicken the religious life of the Unitarian churches, and to bring the women of the denomination into closer acquaintance, co-operation and fellowship; to promote local organizations of women for missionary and denominational work; to bring them into helpful association; to collect and disseminate information regarding all matters of interest to the denomination, such as needs of local societies, facilities for meeting these needs, work to be done, the collection and distribution of money, and in general to devise ways and means for the most efficient usefulness of the women of the Unitarian fellowship.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S RELIGIOUS UNION

THE UNION was organized in 1896, and its purposes are to foster the religious life; to bring the young people of the Unitarian churches into closer relations with one another; and to spread rational views of religion and to put into practice such principles of life and duty as tend to uplift mankind. The cardinal principles of the Union are truth, worship and service. It maintains a field secretary to promote the organization of the young people and to extend the fellowship of the Union.

THE UNITARIAN TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY is practically the working committee of the Unitarian churches to promote the cause of temperance in every way possible. It publishes and freely distributes addresses, pamphlets, leaflets and tracts, and furnishes temperance news and facts to the public press. It arranges for conferences on the subject of temperance and sends speakers to general meetings where this subject may properly have a share in the interest and attention.

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UNITARIAN WORD & WORK

Monthly Bulletin of the American Unitarian Association, The Alliance of Unitarian Women, Young People's Religious Union, and Unitarian Temperance Society

Vol. 20 FEBRUARY, 1917 No. 5

EDITORIAL

I. *Gratitude for a faith that emancipates and satisfies the mind and soul.*

II. *A great adventure with difficulties and hardships, but always towards the light and the vaster and more wonderful fullness of life.*

III. *A service to the world as transmitters of an eternal gospel of freedom and truth.*

THESE were the three cardinal thoughts, respectively, of the three principal addresses delivered by Dr. Charles W. Eliot, Rev. William L. Sullivan, and Dr. Samuel M. Crothers at the banquet of Life Members of the American Unitarian Association on January 18.

This first meeting of four hundred Life Members and guests will not soon be forgotten by those who were present. The arrangements had been carefully made. The president of the Association in his opening speech and in the introduction of speakers contributed volleys of wit, wisdom and anecdote; the music of the Bostonia Orchestra was most happily selected and rendered; the menu was ample, well prepared, and promptly served; the decorations were most attractive and the general spirit of good fellowship and enthusiastic interest prevailed from beginning to end.

In his explanatory remarks the editorial secr tary called attention to the fact that Life Membership implies, not only an honorary recognition, but practical duties and responsibilities as well. "The cause we represent justifies us not simply in passively accepting membership at a distance the work being done by our National Organization, but in being ourselves apostles of the liberal faith, making it known to others, and working together in sympathetic and active co-operation. . . . We sometimes have failed to realize the hold which archaic theologies and sensational exhibitions of religious emotion have upon the masses. A great duty looms before us and we should each feel that our religious inheritance is not the kind to be hidden under a bushel, but is to be placed upon the stand that it may give light to all that are in the house."

The addresses delivered at this banquet are to be reported in the *Christian Register* and a careful reading of them by Life Members and others will be amply rewarded in terms of intellectual pleasure and spiritual inspiration.

The demand for a free faith is more urgent today than ever before. Emerging from the political and religious revolution of our time, there must come forth a theology which will hold a right relation towards the increasing democracy of all human institutions. Unitarians must band themselves together as never before and be ready to contribute their share towards a higher and better understanding of human and divine relations.

A CHANNEL FOR WIDER INFLUENCE

The Unitarian Churches and their organizations are joining in a campaign to raise $160,000 before May 1st for Unitarian work. Unitarians should realize that central in this plan is the proposition to raise $75,000 for the American Unitarian Association. This is not the entire amount which the Association is asking for, but this is the amount that is asked for the primary purpose of sustaining the work of the Association that it may go forward in continued fruitfulness. The other sums asked, for the Association and for the allied organizations, are requested in response to urgent and pressing needs.

For between ninety and one hundred years the American Unitarian Association has carried on its work. It is the foundation of all our co-operative endeavors. Through the pioneer days, through the times of civil war, through the decades of national growth, the Association has gone bravely forward with its great task. Its problems have been faced with unfaltering courage. Through adversity and through prosperity, through depression and through times of inspiration, in the lean days of scanty financial support, and in the happier days of more abundant means, it has constantly endeavored to do the largest, the highest and the finest service which opportunity has offered and resources permitted.

In this long service, which in a few years will cover a century, it has saved the lives of churches when times of hardship came upon them. It has planted new churches and nourished them through their first years until they have reached stalwart strength and wide-spread influence. It has co-ordinated the efforts of the fellowship of our churches and our people, and has furnished the channels through which the streams of their missionary zeal and benevolence could flow. It has woven the fabric of fraternal relationships among our widely scattered churches and has turned into efficiency the efforts of diverse fellowships.

Essentially it has lifted out of localism and isolation the individual church, and has nationalized the vision and the hope of our people. It has widened the horizon of our life; it has furnished to our liberal people scattered over the continent an implement with which to do a wider work than would ever have been possible by even a thousand churches, if that thousand worked in separate and individualistic ways.

In more recent years a number of other Unitarian organizations have grown up, and are in close co-operation with the

Association. These other organizations have their definite and special work to do, but they have all been created and fostered by this growing sense of fellowship which has been the animating spirit of the Association. A number of these are housed within the old home of the parent organization.

In the worthy endeavor to provide these other organizations with funds, Unitarians should always keep in mind the fundamental interest of sustaining adequately the well-established and continuous work of the Association. This is a matter not of a year or a decade or even of a century,—it is a great work established upon long lines. It has a firmly established place within the life of this Republic. To liberalize the religion of a nation is one of the most magnificent of ideals, worthy of great enthusiasm and of high consecration; but that task can be fulfilled only by plodding at it, and by unfaltering loyalty, by devotion and courage which do not fade, day in and day out, year in and year out, decade after decade, generation after generation. We are pursuing a growing ideal. We are moving toward the achievement of an aim which is ever traveling on ahead of us. The more stupendous grows the task, the more valiant must be the purpose.

The Association asks also for $45,000 to strengthen new work which has recently been begun. There are fields where we have made the venture of sowing seed, hoping that it would not fall upon stony ground; and we find it bringing forth, out of deep soil, an abundant harvest. This year there are fields which are white unto the harvest, and we must be alert and diligent if we are not to lose the precious grain which has ripened from the seed-sowing.

The Association gladly combines with its own appeal for funds the appeals for other Unitarian organizations. Now is the time when the work of the Young People's Religious Union should be put upon a firm basis in order that its future may be guaranteed. The Tuckerman School is passing through a hopeful crisis in its life, and has urgent need of an increased support to equip itself adequately. Unitarians have never made anything which approached a sufficient provision for old-age pensions for its faithful and consecrated ministers, and the $10,000 asked for, for the Service Pension Society, is a mere fragment of that which is urgently needed.

Out of all these fine and high endeavors Unitarians may well gather an impulse of generosity and an idealism which will lead them to meet the present opportunity and to advance in our national work one step further forward than we have ever ventured before. We shall plant a great landmark in our progress when we accomplish the task of raising $160,000 before May 1st, 1917, for Unitarian work.

American Unitarian Association

Headquarters: 25 Beacon Street, Boston

Rev. SAMUEL A. ELIOT, D.D., *President*
Rev. LOUIS C. CORNISH, *Secretary*
HENRY M. WILLIAMS, *Treasurer*
W. FORBES ROBERTSON, *Assistant Secretary*

Ministerial Personals

Rev. A. J. Wilson has resigned at Newburgh, N. Y., to accept a call to Brighton, Mass.

Rev. A. H. Sargent has accepted a call to Pembroke, Mass., and Rev. F. K. Gifford to Farmington, Me.

Rev. Leonard Cushman has resigned at Yarmouth, Me., and Rev. P. S. Thacher at Hyde Park, Mass.

Buildings

Among the churches which have been materially improved in recent months should be mentioned the church in Salt Lake City, which has been re-decorated and re-furnished, and the Willow Place Chapel, in Brooklyn, where the interior has been transformed. The First Church in Brooklyn has been embellished by a series of memorial lanterns suspended from the roof. Each lantern has been placed in commemoration of a former member of the church. A dedication service is to be held on February 4, with Dr. S. A. Eliot as the preacher. The subscription for the building of the new church in Schenectady is almost completed and the work will start in the spring.

Anniversaries

The Societies in Bedford and Burlington, Vt., have followed the example of the First Church in Providence and celebrated the One Hundredth Anniversary of their church buildings. Both of these buildings are admirable types of the New England meeting-house. The Society in Haverhill celebrated on December 3 its Two Hundred and Seventy-fifth Anniversary, marking the occasion with the unveiling of a tablet bearing the names of the long succession of ministers.

Star Island

The Star Island Corporation held its first annual meeting on January 15. The reports of the President, Clerk and Treasurer were most encouraging. The last season at the Shoals was the most successful ever held, and prospects for the next summer are for even larger things. Plans are already well under way which promise attractive meetings that will be continuous from the first of July until after the first of September. A contract has been drawn that provides for wholly new plumbing, and another is being negotiated looking toward the drilling of an Artesian well. The Corporation is determined to do everything possible to promote the safety and comfort of its guests, as well as to provide lecture-programs and entertainments that will be at once helpful and attractive.

Journeys

Rev. S. M. Crothers, D.D. has started, under a commission as a Billings Lecturer, on a journey which will carry him along a route indicated by the following places: Charleston, W. Va., Cincinnati, O., Indianapolis, Ind., Memphis and Nashville, Tenn., Milwaukee and Menomonie, Wis., St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth, Minn., Chicago, Ill., Detroit, Mich., and finally Cleveland, Canton and Youngstown, Ohio. He expects to give his Sundays to Cincinnati, Memphis, St. Paul and Evanston, Ill.

Rev. Horace Westwood, D.D., has recently returned to his post at Winnipeg from a visit to the churches in Western Canada. He is able to make a good report of the progress of our cause at Victoria and Calgary and of the stability of the church at Vancouver, which is going steadily forward with lay preaching.

Rev. Charles F. Dole, on his way across the Continent during the fall and early winter, was able to visit and preach for the churches in Lincoln, Neb., Fargo, N. D., Seattle and Spokane, Wash., and Berkeley, Cal., and then went on to spend the winter in Honolulu. He will

be back in California in April and ready to be of service in our churches there.

At the end of the month Rev. S. R. Maxwell, of the Second Church in Boston will leave on a journey towards the Southwest, with appointments at Lynchburg and Roanoke, Va., Nashville and Memphis, Tenn., Shreveport, La., Dallas, Tex., Oklahoma City, Okla., and home probably by the way of Louisville, Dayton and Meadville. His Sundays will be given to Nashville, Shreveport, Oklahoma City and Memphis.

Field Secretary Brown will leave in the middle of the month for the Northwest, with visits at Madison, Wis., St. Cloud, St. Paul, Minn., Red Lodge, Great Falls, Helena and Butte, Mont., and back by way of Utah and Colorado.

The President of the Association expects to go to the Southwest early in March, with visits at Houston, Austin and San Antonio, Tex.

The Secretary of the Association has just returned from a brief trip to Albany, N. Y., Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Finances

As the fiscal year draws on the financial situation overshadows all our activities. The resources of the Association are running dangerously low. Three months remain in the fiscal year. The Budget calls for contributions of $75,000 from the churches even if the present work is to be maintained. $45,000 in addition is needed for immediate new equipment. The Directors of the Association have done all they can in presenting the appeal to the churches. It is now for the people who owe allegiance to this cause to decide if the work of their Association shall be large or small, progressive or regressive.

It cannot be too often repeated that every dollar contributed by the churches goes at once into the field work. The office expenses and administrative salaries are cared for from the income of the unrestricted endowment. The gifts of the noble dead thus free the gifts of the generous living for immediate application.

Our missions are an integral part of our own church life. Our older churches cannot withdraw their support from their younger comrades without peril to themselves. Churches live upon the help they give. We have encouraged our representatives to go too far to bid them stop. The investment of money and human lives and heroic devotion is too large to be abandoned. Our representatives in the mission fields are not bankrupt in pluck or patience. Is their loyalty to be as water spilt on the ground? Is their work to be wasted because our older churches fail to adequately support it? It must be assumed that the ministers and people of the churches are at work upon this urgent necessity and that the needed aid will be forthcoming.

Liberal Evangelism and Publicity

In the January WORD AND WORK there was an account of the comprehensive plan for simultaneous meetings that was carried out during the month of December. The five Sundays of December were used by a number of our ministers in New England for the presentation of five important points in Unitarian faith, and through the publicity channels of the Unitarian Association these sermons received extensive publicity in the Boston papers, and so had a wide reading in New England.

A similar plan is being carried out on the five Sundays following the first of January — that is, the four Sundays of January and the first Sunday of February. The sermons in December dealt principally with the great affirmations of Unitarian belief. The new series of five topics is an expression of the Unitarian spirit rather than of our theology. The general title of the course is "Fundamental Principles of Unitarianism."

On January 7 the subject was "Our Method in Religion — Perfect Mental Freedom (rather than bondage to external authority)." The suggested text was "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." For January 14 the subject was "Our Guide in Religion — Enlightened Reason (rather than conventional opinions and traditions handed down from the past.)" The suggested text was "Test all things; hold

fast that which is good." For January 21 the subject was "Our Spirit in Religion — Broad Fellowship with all who seek the same ends (rather than exclusion of those who differ from us in opinion)." The suggested text was "There are diversities of gifts but the same spirit." For January 28 the subject was "Our Supreme Aim in Religion — Self-forgetting Service to all who need our help (rather than the salvation of our own souls)." The suggested text was "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me." For the coming Sunday, February 4, the subject will be "The Decisive Test in Religion — Character (rather than belief or profession)." The suggested text is "By their fruits ye shall know them."

These sermon topics appear upon a flier, which has been attractively printed in red and black by the Association, and has been extensively used. It has been utilized especially in those churches where these sermon subjects were presented, and has been an effective form of statement for wide distribution. Four such fliers have been printed, similar in type, form and size, and are supplied in any needed quantity to those who will distribute them. They set forth the spirit, the characteristics, the aims and ideals of our liberal faith.

Again, during January we have been fortunate in the amount of space given in the Boston papers to the reports of Unitarian sermons. Every week we have had from two to five columns, and when we consider the wide reading in and through New England which the Boston papers have, we see that our message has been made available to a large number of people who have not heard the spoken word.

It is gratifying to observe the spirit and the quality of these utterances of our men who have shared in this evangelistic and publicity campaign. The message is vigorous, spiritual and reverent. It has not dealt with negation, but with affirmation. It seeks to remove obstacles which lie in the way of progress, but in removing these it supplies also an impelling force for that progress which religion ought to make.

A number of ministers in New England report pronounced success in the holding of special meetings on Liberal Evangelism. There is an interesting diversity in the time and the method of such meetings. In some cases a long series of Sunday evening services are held, in other cases they are held every night in the week, in still others the plan is varied in other ways. It is gratifying that churches which derived good results from such meetings held last year report that they made permanent gains as a result of them and are repeating such meetings this year.

A good many people ask just what kind of program is involved in a week of meetings for the presentation of the Unitarian message. The needs of different communities require considerable elasticity in the way of a program, but let one illustration indicate how such a series of meetings can be carried on.

The church in Cincinnati proposes to hold a week of meetings beginning on Sunday, February 4. Noon meetings are to be held each weekday in the Union Central Building, the service being just half an hour long, with two hymns and a fifteen minute address. The room in which these noon services are held will be open daily from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M., and the visiting speakers are expected to be there to meet and talk with persons seeking information. Evening meetings will be held daily in the Unitarian church with a service conducted by the local ministers and a regular sermon or address. The key note of all the meetings of this course is to be "A Plea for Sincerity in Religion." Each speaker will enjoy freedom and follow his own inclinations, but it is hoped that this general subject will be kept in mind and that there will be a certain continuity in all the utterances of the week. The appointments are as follows: Rev. Samuel M. Crothers will be the preacher on Sunday, February 4. The noon appointments for the weekdays are successively Mr. Robinson of Cincinnati, Dr. Crothers, Rev. D. R. Lupton, of Louisville, Dr.

Thayer of Cincinnati, Rev. F. S. C. Wicks of Indianapolis, and Rev. John Haynes Holmes of New York. The week-day evening sermons will be preached by Dr. Crothers, Mr. Lupton, Rev. J. M. Evans, of Dayton, Mr. Wicks, and Rev. E. R. Shippen, of Detroit. Mr. Holmes is to be the preacher on the concluding Sunday, February 11.

This is an unusually strong program, but it illustrates what can and ought to be done in many communities. There is a difference of judgment and experience in regard to the advisability of having a number of speakers. In some cases it has appeared to be best to have one speaker throughout the week, including, if possible, both Sundays. This is, however, a pretty serious strain on the preacher, though it does provide for a cumulative effect which is less possible with a constant change in the leadership.

Meeting in Symphony Hall, Boston

Some of the ministers and laymen of churches in and about Boston have initiated a plan for a great public meeting to be held in Boston in order to clear the atmosphere of some of the current misconceptions of the liberal faith and to set forth in an affirmative manner what we know to be the imperishable principles of religion. Rev. Samuel M. Crothers, D.D., minister of the First Parish in Cambridge, is the Chairman of this Committee. By private subscription the cost of the meeting is being provided for. The meeting is to be held in Symphony Hall next Sunday evening, February 4. A pamphlet of hymns has been printed from plates selected from the "New Hymn and Tune Book" published by the American Unitarian Association. In making the choice of hymns the Committee has used only hymns by Unitarian writers — again particularly for the purpose of clearing up some current misapprehensions of the spiritual power of the Unitarian faith and its poetic expression. Realizing that "our songs have gone where our singers are excluded" this pamphlet, of which four thousand copies have been printed, will be a real message of the spiritual life within our body.

The attention of all Unitarians in the neighborhood of Boston is called to this Mass Meeting. This community has been undergoing, for ten weeks past, the preaching of an extraordinarily antiquated and irrational kind of doctrine. Dr. Charles W. Eliot is to preside, Rev. W. L. Sullivan and Hon. Robert Luce are to be the speakers. There is to be a chorus choir of the young people of the Unitarian churches. It is to be hoped that all the Unitarians of the Metropolitan District will not only attend themselves but that they will bring with them friends or neighbors to whom the message of a reasonable and practical faith may be as yet unknown.

New England Field Secretary

Mr. Nobbs has had a reasonably busy month. Part of the work consisted of visits to parishes which were holding their annual parish suppers. Among these may be mentioned Ayer, Mass., and Waltham. He also preached at King's Chapel, Boston, Dover, Mass., Deerfield, the North Church at Hingham, Mass., and Hartford, Conn. A most interesting time was the meeting of the Men's Club of Wollaston, where a large company of men listened to an address on "The Kind of Church which our Country Needs." In addition visits have been made to parishes, in order to meet committees and give advice about conditions. One such place was Lawrence, Mass., where a small, neat, convenient parish house is perhaps three-fourths completed. It is located, as are most of the churches in Lawrence, on the edge of the park. Its constituency is not the usual constituency of a Unitarian parish, but is in large part composed of people from over the seas. It will be an important experiment to see how the Unitarian cause can succeed under such conditions.

In the checkered career of a Field Secretary, which consists a good deal of being a hearer of all the accumulated pessimism of months and years, it is refreshing to the spirit to get such news

as has been received recently. From Ayer, for instance, comes this word from the energetic minister: "The Budget of the year was raised in one stroke. One third more was pledged than was pledged last year. The canvassers found the raising of the Budget so easy that it will be easy to recruit canvassers for next year." Considering that the Ayer parish has made extensive changes in its building, it seems as if things were decidedly looking up.

Sanford, Maine, which has engaged the attention of the Secretary a good deal has done a fine thing. Not only have pledges enough been made to practically assure the building of a suitable structure, but the patient courageous minister, Reverend George F. Pratt, writes that he easily got solicitors to try to raise the Budget and they had good success in raising the amount necessary for conducting the enterprise. A jubilation banquet was held on January 23, with the Field Secretary as speaker.

Albany, N. Y.

The development of the church at Albany is full of promise. For a long time it has seemed expedient to move from the present church building, which is situated in the business center of the city, and is more valuable for other purposes than for ours. A unique opportunity to secure a new site presented itself. At the junction of two boulevards and adjacent to the Normal College is a "V" shaped piece of land of adequate size and commanding a long vista. The electric cars run within one block of it; much of the automobile travel passes it. It would be hard indeed to find a location more completely suited to our needs. Near the best residence section of the city, next to the College, and centrally located for people from all parts of the city, the lot presents strategic advantages that are not often combined. The officers of the Association have ventured to pledge the aid of the sister churches in the purchase of this lot and appeal for liberal contributions to this good end.

There is much to commend the wisdom of our friends in the Christian Science movement. They concentrate upon the building of a strong church in one city after another. We could well concentrate on Albany. The capital of the most influential State in the Union, with permanent residents of unusual character and intelligence, with many temporary citizens connected in one and another way with the legislature and departments of state, and with the Normal College, which is rapidly growing and is destined to be one of the most important educational centers in this great State, Albany is a most important field. The Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse churches have long been strong centers of religious influence. The Schenectady church in its brief history has shown splendid vigor, and is now going forward with its plans for additional equipment. We should have a very strong church at Albany, and we have good reasons to believe that we shall have it. The acquirement of the new building site will be one step in this direction.

The Rev. Charles Graves, minister of the Albany Church, has recently been appointed Chaplain to the Assembly of the State of New York. This is an honor richly deserved, and is a recognition which brings with it a large sphere of influence.

Department of Religious Education

The Faculty of Religious Education of Boston University is carrying on a series of lectures for the benefit of Sunday-school workers, parents, and others engaged in guiding young lives into Christian maturity. These lectures are held in Channing Hall, 25 Beacon Street, and in Pilgrim Hall, in the Congregational headquarters, 14 Beacon Street, Boston. They began on January 20 and will be given every Saturday until April 7. Notice of this course was not received in time to be announced in the January number of *Word and Work*, but announcements were sent by mail to all Sunday-school superintendents near enough to Boston to make it practicable

to attend the lectures. It is not yet too late to enroll, but applications should be in before February 10. Aside from the value of these lectures, their co-operative feature is very suggestive. Particulars may be learned through this Department.

The Religious Education Association holds its fourteenth annual Convention in Boston this year, the sessions being held on the last two days of this month and the first day of March. This Association stands for and devotes itself to promoting the best ideas and methods in religious education, and so has unusual interest for Unitarians. Many of our people are members and several hold important offices in the Association. The three evening gatherings of the approaching convention are to be held in Trinity Church, the New Old South Church, and Symphony Hall. Daytime meetings will be held in the rooms of Boston University and in churches in the vicinity of Copley Square. Many eminent speakers will discuss various aspects of the general topic, and attractive musical programs, under the direction of Dr. H. Augustine Smith, of Chicago, will give added interest. It is probable that people will be in attendance upon these meetings from every state in the Union. Unitarians in attendance, especially those from places remote from Boston, are cordially invited to make themselves known at our denominational headquarters.

Rev. Thomas P. Byrnes has opened an Open Forum in his church at Birmingham, Alabama, in which he is taking up fundamental questions of religion and education. Of especial interest are his addresses to his Sunday School Training Class, which meets early Sunday mornings. The subjects discussed in December were: "The Five Methods of Approach to the Mind and Heart of the Child"; "The Place of Play and Enjoyment in Sunday School Work"; "The Best Way to Awaken the Natural Religious Sentiments of the Growing Child"; "Character Building, the Great Aim of the Liberal Sunday School"; "The Place of Music, Singing and Worship in the Sunday School."

Miss Mary Lawrance announces that she is preparing a box of *Hebrew costumes* to be put at the disposal of schools for biblical plays. Terms and particulars may be had by addressing Miss Lawrance at 25 Beacon Street, Boston.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee of the Association met on January 18 and organized with Henry D. Sharpe of Providence, R.I. as chairman, and Rev. F. Raymond Sturtevant of Taunton as secretary. The other members of the committee are Mrs. Whitman Frost, Washington, D. C., Norman L. Bassett, Augusta, Maine, and Rev. Eugene R. Shippen, Detroit, Mich.

The vote under which this committee was appointed is hereto appended:

"Voted, That the President shall appoint immediately after the annual meeting a committee of five members of the Association, no one of whom shall be an officer or director, to serve as a nominating committee. The names of this committee shall be printed in the annual report and in the Year Book. It shall receive suggestions of names of possible candidates up to the first of February preceding the annual meeting, and shall publish a list of its nominations in all the denomination's papers before the first of March. Other candidates besides those selected by the nominating committee, duly nominated by fifty adult Unitarians, of whom not more than five shall be members of one church, society, or parish, shall be added to the official ballot, properly designated as nominated on nomination papers; provided, however, such nominations are duly submitted to the nominating committee before the first of April preceding the annual meeting. The nominating committee shall prepare an official printed ballot for use at the annual meeting, publishing copies of it in all the denominational papers before the first of May preceding the annual meeting.

The nominating committee, therefore,

desires to announce that it is prepared to receive suggestions of available candidates for nomination to the following offices, viz: president; a vice-president from each of the following districts, Northern New England, Southern New England, Middle states, Southern States, Central West, Rocky Mountain States, Pacific Coast and Dominion of Canada; secretary; assistant secretary; treasurer; six other directors, four of whom must be from New England, one from the Middle and Southern States, and one from the Western States and Pacific Coast.

All suggestions and correspondence should be addressed to the chairman or secretary and be in the hands of the committee not later than February 15. The time February 1 as stated in the vote is by courtesy extended to February 15.

The New Hymn and Tune Book

Publication Department

The department is pleased to announce that the Unitarian Churches in New Orleans, La., Sandwich, Mass., and Bangor, Maine, have installed the *New Hymn and Tune Book* during the month of January.

The Latest Bulletins

Social Service Bulletin, No. 38, entitled "A Comprehensive Immigration Policy and Program" by Sidney L. Gulick, and the Religious Education Bulletin, No. 12, "The Promotion of Loyalty: Local and Denominational" by William I. Lawrance have both recently been issued. These bulletins may be obtained upon application to the Publication Department.

The Religion of Today

By Rev. John Haynes Holmes

This book will be ready this month. It is a summary of Mr. Holmes' forceful and characteristic thinking. No one can read it without feeling that the author has the prophetic gift, and must be classed as one of the great preachers of our time. He takes up the burning questions of the day and discusses them with the assurance that the great ideals of Christianity are not mere theories, but the vital necessities of human society. Order from the Publication Department, 25 Beacon Street, Boston. The net price is $1.50, or $1.65 by mail.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The following recent books which may be classed as "books on liberal religion," "by Unitarian authors" or "about well-known Unitarians," have been acquired during the past month. They may be seen at the Book Room, 25 Beacon Street, and purchased at the accompanying prices.

Are You Human? by William D. Hyde; $1.55 by mail.

Freedom and Truth, by Howard N. Brown; $1.87 by mail.

The Inner Life, by Rufus M. Jones; $1.08 by mail.

It's All in the Day's Work, by Henry K. Churchill; $.55 by mail.

Pleasures of an Absentee Landlord, by Samuel M. Crothers; $1.35 by mail.

Psychology of Religion, by Prof. George M. Coe; $1.60 by mail.

The Alliance of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women

Headquarters: Room 10, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Miss ANNA M. BANCROFT, *President*
Hopedale, Mass.

Mrs. LUCIA CLAPP NOYES, *Treasurer*
11 St. John St., Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Mrs. CAROLINE S. ATHERTON, *Rec. Sec.*,
25 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

Mrs. ROBERT H. DAVIS, *Cor. Sec.*,
226 Windermere Ave., Wayne, Pa.

The Post Office Mission

Prepared for the Executive Board Meeting at Baltimore.

The Post Office Mission Committee was one of the first to be established as a definite part of our work in the early days of the Auxiliary. It was then and has always remained distinctly rel gious and denominational. The work has enlarged and from time to time changed some of its methods, but the purpose is always the same. It is a "Mission to the Individual," seeking to reach through personal effort all who need our helpful Faith by the distribution of our splendid free literature. There are many of our own people who need to be kept in touch with us because of a lack of opportunity to at end a liberal church, and a growing number to be reached of those who have come to share our views through individual thought or reading. Both these classes express great appreciation for the help we give in their religious life. The one is grateful for fellowship and sympathy, the other rejoices to know that there is an established church of Liberal Thought.

This special form of our work belongs to what is known as the Mailing Department. Generally an advertisement is placed in a magazine or newspaper somewhat like this: " 'What think ye of Christ' by Rev. Edward Everett Hale, and other Unitarian Literature sent free. Apply....." Usually several requests for reading will follow, and carefully selected sermons should be sent at once with a cordial letter of explanation and interest. These first tracts should always be distinctly Unitarian in character, this is due to our work and fair to inquirers. After sending tracts several times, at intervals varying from two to three weeks to a month, another letter should follow, to learn if the readers are interested and in sympathy with the views expressed. If it is wished, reading should then be sent regularly. It has never been our policy to force our reading or our views in any way, but we should never lose sight of opportunities of helpfulness, and there are many scattered all over the broad land who are anxious to know of our Unitarian religion and the help it gives. Our great need and opportunity comes from those who are no longer satisfied with the old dogmas, but who wish for religious association. No one can really know this better than a Post Office Mission worker. Literature for distribution comes from two sources. First from the American Unitarian Association, and one has only to read its well arranged free catalogue to know how splendidly the sermons show our point of view, and through exchange of sermons with other churches of our fellowship. The first is open to all by writing to Headquarters, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, and the second requires but a little personal effort. This work like anything worth doing requires patience and persistence, and will bring rewards, if sometimes discouragement.

A second branch of our work is known as Vestibule Distribution and I am especially anxious to have this in the hands of the Alliance branches, and also to have careful records kept. A rack or table with sermons and special tracts should be in a conspicuous place, that members of the congregation, or strangers, may be able to take and read them. Such distribution keeps our own members in touch with our thought, permanent

or passing, and offers an opportunity to others who may become interested. Attention should be called to the sermons and the committee should see to it that the display be made as attractive as possible.

Sometimes public places may be used effectively as distributing points, and indeed Post Office Mission work includes any and every method of placing our literature where it may be accepted and become helpful. Many of our enthusiastic workers both in our pulpits and pews have come through the effort of the Post Office Mission. There are books and papers which explain this work which will be sent on application to the Chairman or Secretary of the National Committee, or to the Post Office Mission Department at 25 Beacon Steet, Boston, Mass. Seeming difficulties will disappear before an earnest effort.

It is important to keep careful records and to report results to the National Committee. Report blanks to be made out are sent each spring and the results published in the Manual.

To the Alliances I wish to way that I hope the time will come when every Alliance has a Post Office Mission Committee. We had last year reports from 205 committees and expect to do better this year. In every Alliance there must be some members who are especially suited to this form of service. Some definite amount of money, however small, for this work should be a part of the "budget" of each Alliance.

Recently I heard an interesting incident of the way that working for needs at a distance proved very helpful at home. A party of devoted and efficient workers for Hospitals in France learned that their own Hospital had always great difficulty in obtaining just the supplies that they were sending abroad as previously there were no organized workers. They at once added a Home Department which proved of great value. In something of this way I believe each Alliance will gain in their thought and life through touch with some one needing Unitarianism in Montana or Texas. Religion is the supreme experience of mankind, and there was never in this world a greater need of Faith and conviction than now, and the dearer our helpful Faith is to ourselves the greater is the need of sharing it with others.

HANNAH T. OSGOOD,
Chairman, Post Office Mission Committee.

Executive Board

The monthly meeting of the Executive Board was held January 12, 1917, in the Baltimore Unitarian Church. There were present: Miss Bancroft, presiding; Mmes. Voigt, Peterson, Davis, Noyes, Atherton, Bellows, Bacon, Blair, Burt, Hayes, Lowell, Whitman, Wilder, Wiers, Woodbridge, Chipman, Glasgow, and by invitation representatives from the Baltimore, Philadelphia, Washington, Highland Springs, Lynchburg, and Richmond branches and the Philadelphia and Virginia Leagues.

The Treasurer reported a bequest of one thousand dollars from the late Elizabeth P. Channing.

In memoriam have been added the names of Mrs. Emily A. Carter and Mrs. Delia S. Marshall by the Concord, New Hampshire, branch; Mrs. Emogene P. Fairbanks by Brookline Second; Mrs. Lewis G. Wilson and Mrs. Fred Smith by Hopedale; Miss Helen Collamore, First Church Branch, Boston; Mrs. Charles F. Baker, Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

Headquarters report from San Francisco gave a total of forty-one Alliance callers. The Boston office reported 432 visitors, 65 books and 14 lending papers borrowed; 375 exchange sermons and 965 tracts sent for the Post Office Mission. There are now 603 Alliance Subscribers to WORD AND WORK, a gain of 107 the past month.

The Cheerful Letter committee asked for more subscribers for the Cheerful Letter magazine. Branches may be interested to subscribe for one or more copies, fifty cents a year, and have them sent to shut-ins.

Mrs. Peterson was present to tell of

the good work going on in North Carolina and Florida. The Sunday School at Shelter Neck is well attended and the continued interest of the young people is a satisfaction to the workers. There is promise of success at Tallahassee that would be hastened if the right place could be secured for a headquarters and reading room.

On the recommendation of the Appeals committee it was voted to endorse and put before the branches an Appeal for $250 for the Tuckerman School for parish workers.

The Junior Alliance of Jamaica Plain, Mass., held a Junior neighborhood meeting at which Miss Bancroft read the Alliance Travelogue. Mrs. Voigt reported having held at her house in New York a meeting of Lend a Hand clubs, Flatbush, Montclair, Messiah, and Lenox Avenue uniting.

The resignation of Mrs. Arthur L. Weatherly, director for Nebraska, was accepted with regret, and also that of Miss Charline P. Morgan, director for Kansas.

Mrs. J. Hartley Anderson of Pittsburgh was nominated director for Western Pennsylvania to succeed Mrs. David E. Mitchell.

A letter of greeting was voted Mrs. Mitchell and of sympathy because of the recent illness of her son.

Mrs. Adda P. Parker of Helena was nominated director for Montana.

A letter of sympathy was voted Mrs. Claude U. Gilson.

The news of the death on January 3, 1917, of Miss Caroline Leib, president of the Louisville branch and former director of the Alliance for Kentucky, was heard with sorrow and a letter of sympathy and appreciation of Miss Leib's character and work was voted to be sent to the Louisville branch.

The President announced the following appointments; May Meetings committee: Mrs. Blair, Miss Bellows, Miss Lowell, Mrs. Wiers, Miss Mary C. Sawyer, Mrs. Atherton; Manual committee: Mrs. Noyes, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Ware, Miss Whitman, Mrs. Woodbridge.

The business session closed with a rising vote of thanks to the Baltimore branch for its cordial welcome and large hospitality.

A delicious luncheon was served in the parish house to all the guests, nearly one hundred were seated at the tables.

Miss Bancroft presided at the open conference in the church at 2.30 P.M. After the Alliance service the President spoke of the national spirit we strive to foster. The roll was called and Mrs. Noyes, Mrs. Atherton, Mrs. Voigt, Miss Whitman, Mrs. Blair, Miss Bellows presented each some phase of our work. Mrs. Lewis, president of the Virginia League, brought news from each of the Virginia branches, and added an impressive word in appreciation of the faith that is new to so many in our Virginia branches. Ways of keeping the interest of older members who retire in favor of new workers were considered. The needs of the Sunday School were discussed and Mrs. Lewis was asked to tell of the Lynchburg School of seventy-two members. The closing address was given by Mrs. Davis, a plea for Sunday School, Alliance, and all that is highest and best.

The Baltimore meeting will be remembered with other out of Boston sessions for the fellowship promoted. A new point of contact is established, and the closer acquaintance means more of the national spirit and a stronger alliance.

The next meeting will take place February 9, 1917, when reports are due from the Pacific Coast and New England, except Massachusetts.

CAROLINE S. ATHERTON,
Recording Secretary

A paper given by Miss Bancroft at the Monday Conference of Alliance Workers at 25 Beacon Street, Boston, has in compliance with the request of those who heard it been typed and may be had by any branch president on application to Alliance headquarters. The paper was written to emphasize the national spirit and was addressed to presidents.

The Junior Alliance

A unique vacation meeting of the Jamaica Plain, Mass. Junior Alliance occurred on December 29, 1916. The girls met in Boston, visited the Unitarian Building at 25 Beacon Street, and then went to the Tuckerman School on West Cedar Street, where a committee served luncheon. After refreshments they went upstairs to visit the Junior Alliance room which they had helped to furnish. They left there their framed motto which their president hung on the wall of the room.

"The wider the circle of love we make,
The happier life we live;
And the more we give for another's sake
The more we shall have to give."

Just before 3.00 P.M. they arrived at the Arlington Street Church. The Junior Alliance of Jamaica Plain has the honor of being hostess to the first neighborhood meeting of Juniors in the vicinity of Boston. It was held at three o'clock in the vestry of this church. Miss Bancroft, president of The Alliance, honored the occasion by reading the Travelogue before this assembly of Juniors and their friends. Brookline, East Boston and Watertown were represented in the audience. All of the Junior Alliances of greater Boston were bidden by the Jamaica Plain Junior Alliance to see the illustrated lecture of the work of The Alliance.

One slide shows Mrs. Voigt, chairman of the Junior Fellowship Committee, with a number of little French children made orphans by the war. The picture was taken during an outing on the shore of the Mediterranean while Mrs. Voigt was in France last summer. She went across the ocean to lend a helping hand to Mrs. Weller, our Canadian Alliance member who, for two years, has given herself to hospital and relief work in France, principally at Cannes.

There are orphans enough needing shoes, stockings, and other comforts for every member of our Junior organizations to have one of her own to foster. It would be gratifying if Junior Alliances, Lend-a-Hand Clubs and Camp Fire Girls would send through their secretaries to Mrs. W. L. Voigt, 222 Riverside Drive, New York, for the names of groups of these little boys and girls who need so much every kind of material assistance.

International Committee

The International Committee commends to the attention of the branches a letter from Mme. Laura Hyacinthe Loyson in the Christian Register for December 28, 1916. Throughout the war Mme. Loyson has been doing remarkable relief work at her home in Paris. Up to this time she has entertained as guests for rest and convalescence five hundred and thirty soldiers and several officers. Further she tries to keep in touch with the men by correspondence after the return to the front and the task grows ever heavier. Mme. Loyson closes her letter with a touching appeal:

"Times are growing harder as the war goes on, living is daily more expensive; but *these men are doing their duty to the end.* Will you help *me to do mine also to the end* and prove again that American hearts are as great as the calamity which has stricken the world?"

From the Nominating Committee

Many branches have not realized the finality of Miss Bancroft's decision not to serve again as President of The Alliance. The Nominating Committee will consider suggestions for this important office until February the tenth.

Address Mrs. Murdock M. Clark, Chairman, 38 Arlington Street, Cambridge, Mass.

Alliance Travelogue

The Travelogue will be heard in Charleston, S. C., Louisville, Ky., New Orleans, La., St. Louis, Mo., Atlanta, Ga., Lynchburg, Va., Meadville, Pa., from which place it returns to Newton, Boston, Sharon, Waverley, Fitchburg, Middleboro, Brookline, Mass. The first two weeks of March are not filled.

News from the Branches

The Chicago Associate Alliance met at Unity Church January 4, 1917, the president, Mrs. Schuyler Lynn, in the chair. In a very happy manner she introduced the speaker, Mr. Clarence Darrow, famous lawyer of Chicago, who spoke on "Heredity and Environment" as related to the criminal. The discussion was lively and interesting. At these meetings the Alliance service book is used. Luncheon is served by the branch Alliance of the church and a social hour enjoyed. The next meeting will be at the Third Unitarian Church on March 1, 1917. Mrs. Julia Clark Hallam will speak on "What is the matter with the Filipino?" and Mrs. A. M. Lewis will give the Religious News.

This word comes from Roanoke, Va. Our Alliance Branch would like to thank all the friends in the north who responded so generously to our appeal at the time of our sale, which was held the first week in December. We received aprons and many other small gifts from so many of the branches in the New England states. We also received many kind letters of interest and encouragement from individuals. We realized $53 as a result of our effort. This may seem a small amount to the dear lady who wrote me of their sale in which $1,400 was cleared. However, we are a tiny body and feel happy to have made this small amount to help our little parish here.

Mrs. Glasgow, director for Eastern Canada writes:

"The Report of the Branches in my district is again very little more than a record of women's work for the war. It is quite impossible, indeed, for any Canadian organization of women or of men, especially of thinking women or men, to carry on work which has not as its basic idea patriotic endeavour. All work now is an outlet — a means of expressing the feeling which is uppermost in the minds and hearts of all our people — how to fortify and sustain our men, show them our gratitude and appreciation and help to bring the war to a successful ending."

Mrs. Woodbridge, director for Eastern Pennsylvania, writes that the First Church Philadelphia during the year printed seven of Dr. St. John's sermons, put an acousticon in the church, and made numerous appropriations for Unitarian work throughout the country. A very attractive little book called "Living in Earnest" was on sale at their fair. It consists of selections for every day in the year made by Mrs. St. John from Dr. St. John's sermons. This collection of terse and thoughtful remarks will prove to be one of our gems, and to be without a copy will be a real misfortune. The following quotations from the book make one wish for more:

"The strong, zealous, generous-hearted church is the only human organization that gives to unselfish love its full sway.

We need everywhere that note of the heroic which makes men long to achieve great things, makes them feel high emotions, and love better the toils that come with honor, than the gains of selfishness.

The law of the Christian life is — every soul shall *give*. You shall give of your possessions. You shall give of your time, your personal qualities, your moral self, for the good of the world."

The Philadelphia League has made a considerable gain in membership during the last year and it has a fine program for the present season. Some interesting subjects are "Poetry of the Common Place;" "Some Recollections of Rev. Samuel Longfellow"; "The Unitarian Church and the Immigrant"; "Some Recollections of William Henry Furness." A few subjects from branch programs are "Experiences during a short stay in France and Belgium"; "A Liberal Faith for all People"; "The Importance of High Ideals"; "The Personal Life"; "Waste Not, Want Not." The League not only is quickening the religious spirit of our women in these days, but it is uncovering more and more the varied needs and interests of our own five branches in particular, and of the whole band of Alliance branches in general. It really seems as if we were beginning to comprehend the meaning of the words "Bear ye one another's burdens."

The Study Class of the Woman's Alliance of Pittsburgh has a program for the winter on Social Reconstruction, largely a local survey. This program would apply equally well to any of our other great cities and for that reason is given in considerable detail:

First, Theories of Government, Socialism, Socialism versus Anarchism, with a review of Alexander Berkmann's "Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist," Democracy versus Imperialism, with a review of H. G. Wells' "Social Forces in America;"

Second, Educational Advance, Cultural Education, with a review of George Meredith's "Richard Feverel," Vocational Education, Special Training for City Employees, Ethical Education, with these sub-topics, The Ethical Culture Movement in America, Readjustment of Moral Standards, Review of Pamphlets by Margaret Sangster; "Twilight of the Idols," Nietzsche, The Younger Generation, Ellen Key, "Showing Up of Blanco Posnet," Bernard Shaw, Education in Pittsburg, with sub-topics, The Public Schools, Our Kindergarten System;

Third, The New Philanthropy, Prison Reform;

Fourth, Immigration: with sub-topics The Pros and Cons of Further Restriction; What America Does for the Immigrant, with a review of Myra Kelly's "The Little Citizen," What the Immigrant Does for America, with a reading of Mr. R. H. Schauffler's 'The Scum o' the Earth, The New American in Pittsburgh;

Fifth, Internationalism.

The Norfolk Branch Alliance, Dorchester, Mass., has been saddened by the death of Mrs. William H. Haddock, a member since its formation and one of its earliest presidents. Mrs. Haddock's memory will remain as a cheerful and generous giver of time and services to the faith she loved, and a loyal member of the Norfolk Unitarian Church.

The Paterson, N. J. Branch of the Woman's Alliance has a membership of sixteen and has been holding evening meetings, but is going back to Saturday afternoons. The members are working women and can only come together when their work allows. Their chief effort has been put into a Woman's Exchange, which has been open from nine until five every week day, for about three months. Most of this time has been filled in by different members of the Alliance. Paterson has no other Woman's Exchange, and needs one; and besides it seems to be a satisfactory way for the women to make a small income for their church work.

The Ridgewood, N. J., Branch of fifteen women has been since September 1916, carrying on special publicity work. A "corner" containing Unitarian thought in two local papers is conducted by a committee of the Alliance.

The Flushing, New York, Branch made some money through taking orders for Christmas cards for a firm of manufacturers. They received half the receipts from the orders. The dedication of the church took place on December 10 and the women of the Alliance provided supper for sixty of the guests and the ministers who had taken part in the exercises.

The Manual Committee will soon begin work on the Manual for the coming year. It is the aim to make the book as complete a hand book as possible for all Alliance workers. If any one has suggestions to offer whereby the book may be made more practical and useful will she please send them at an early date to Mrs. R. H. Davis, Corresponding Secretary.

Appeals

Appeals stand as follows:

Green Harbor, Mass., preaching	$48
Northumberland, Pa., preaching	20
Meadville students	50
Pacific School students	59
Italian Mission	146
Missionary in China	283
Seattle, Wash., University Church furnishings	55
Tuckerman School	250
Needed for Southern Circuit before May 1	450

Young People's Religious Union of the Unitarian Church

Headquarters: Room 11, 25 Beacon Street, Boston

Rev. Frederick M. Eliot, *President*

Miss Grace R. Torr, *Secretary* Mr. O. Arthur McMurdie, *Treasurer*

The Topic List

The Discovery of God

The topics this month go to the heart of our religion, and consider the fundamental problem of the ways in which men can enter into relations with God. There is a natural reserve in most of us that makes it seem very difficult to talk about the deeper things of religion, but it is a good thing to try to overcome this reserve at times and to endeavor to put into words our ideas as to the fundamental things of life. This may help us to clarify our own ideas, but it may also be of real service to others; and the motive that will best help us to talk freely about these topics is that of service to others. The discovery of God is the most important thing in the world, and to share with others our own discoveries—however small and inadequate they may seem—is a privilege and a duty.

Feb. 4. In the Outer World. God is revealed to many persons most clearly in Nature. The poet, the scientist, and the nature-lover find God in the outer world of law and beauty. Read part of Wordsworth's "Tintern Abbey," and sing Joseph Addison's great hymn: "The spacious firmament on high."

Feb. 11. The Inward Witness. Our Unitarian hymn-writers have given enduring expression to the fact that God dwells in the soul of every man. One of the best of these hymns is Dr. Hosmer's: "Go not my soul in search of him." The story of the prophet Elijah illustrates the discovery of God not in the great forces of Nature but in the voice of conscience. The moral law in the heart is the sign of the presence of God, and the love of justice and the desire to set right the wrongs of the existing social order are the evidences of His in-dwelling spirit.

Feb. 18. In Moral Regeneration. The story of the "conversion" of Paul is one of the many stories of similar times of crisis in human lives, that mark an abrupt transition and seem to wholly remake the characters and ideals of those who experience them. Some power comes into the lives of men that gives them new life, and this is one of the ways in which the divine spirit works among men. Paul discovered God in that experience by the road side, and countless others have made the discovery in a similar way. Read some account of the work of Thomas Mott Osborne at Sing Sing, and show how this illustrates the same point. Sing William Cowper's hymn: "God moves in a mysterious way."

Feb. 25. In the Christ-Life. In what sense did Jesus reveal God to men? This question would be answered in many different ways by different people; but without accepting the traditional Christian idea of Jesus, we can still see in him one of the supreme examples of a man in whom the spirit of God dwelt. By studying his life we can learn a great deal about the God he taught men to serve. By trying to be his disciples we can discover the same God that he found. Jesus can be for us the way to the Father, the truth that shall make us free as he was free and the life that will yield us the fruits of useful and effective service to the world. Sing Whittier's hymn: "O Love! O Life!"

Gratitude

So much has been written and said about gratitude, that it would seem well nigh impossible to introduce anything that has not already been covered. We are constantly surrounded by so many perfectly obvious blessings that a fresh attempt to catalog them would only result in boring an intelligent reader. Let us

therefore confine ourselves to two items that we as Unitarians should be especially grateful for — *Work* and *Reward*.

Work. How grateful we should be for it! Not merely our ability to perform work, although there is much to be thankful for on that score, but the wonderful privilege we enjoy in being permitted to work. To know and feel that we are a part in the great scheme of things; that no matter how small our task may be, it counts for something in that long upward climb of humanity. To labor in the Master's vineyard, and more for us Unitarians, to labor in the untilled part of it; to blaze the way in the dark and unexplored recesses of it. Do we ever stop to think what a privilege we Liberals enjoy in the fact that we are pioneers cutting a path through the tractless jungle of the intellectual wilderness? Think for example of the sturdy settlers who opened up this great country to civilization. We present day citizens find ourselves surrounded by all kinds of comfort and convenience. We are safe and snug in our cities and homes from the many dangers that constantly threatened these pioneers, and to them we are everlastingly indebted; these courageous men and women who braved the dangers of the sea and coming here landed among greater dangers and hardships, and through this great wilderness hewed a path for that western civilization which was to follow. Now we as Unitarians are in exactly the same position in the field of religion as were these pioneers whose privilege it was to write on the page of history.

They stood for *Liberty*, and they lived and died struggling against odds for the cause of liberty to develop and work out their own destinies, and in doing so they were laying the foundations on which we were to build our splendid institutions. Similarly we who are working in this liberal religious movement are in the vanguard, blazing a way through a thick undergrowth of superstition and fanaticism. This intellectual tangle oftimes seems well nigh impenetrable, and it is only by long and persistent effort that we are able to get the light of intelligence through it. Should we not then rejoice and be exceeding glad that we are permitted not only to work in the vineyard of the Master, but more, that the great and honorable task of opening up the undeveloped part of it has been entrusted to our care? Let us then give thanks and be grateful for that sacred commission, and girding our loins, so to speak, let us go forward where duty calls and, in cutting our way through ignorance and stagnation, leave our tool marks that all who follow may see.

And what of *Reward*? There is nothing more true in the world than that the principles for which we Unitarians stand will ultimately come to be universally recognized. Not that this universal recognition will make these principles any more true, nay, the fact that they are recognized by only the minority today is even a testimony to their worth. Therefore we can and should be grateful in the knowledge and conviction that we are holding aloft the blazing torch of truth, and by its light we are marching forward shoulder to shoulder, fearless in the certainty that that immortal light will lead us aright. Pity the hundreds of thousands of people who, blindly following some will-o-the-wisp faith, the tenets of which do not quite square with their common sense, find themselves through lack of moral courage unable to free themselves from the shackles of ecclesiasticism and superstition; but we should give thanks that we are free, free from the hypocritical mumblings and the sanctimonious nothings that befog the intellect and clog the wheels of progress.

In freeing ourselves from that thraldom we of course place ourselves in the front line fighting trenches among the bravest, and of course are naturally in the minority. But victory is sure and the reward that will come with it is also sure. We as Unitarians, and especially those of us who are also evolutionists, are grateful that in the eternity of our existence, a short span of time has been alloted to us to associate with each

other as friends and co-workers. We are grateful that we have reached that point in our evolution when our minds are clearing to the larger vision the deeper meaning of life and the fuller knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. And being grateful in that knowledge acquired by our freedom of thought, that we will live to see the vindication of these principles of truth, justice and brotherhood, we can heartily repeat: "For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful."

Yes, the road has been hard and long, and there is still much arduous pioneer work before us; but there are signs even now that we are coming into a rich inheritance, the inheritance of *Accomplishment.* The wave of democracy sweeping over all mankind, is cleansing every phase of human thought and is gradually emanating all these conflicting eddy currents of life into one grand and powerful stream of Universal Brotherhood. We are living in an age of awakening. Men are beginning to think, and with the liberation of thought is coming the liberation of the intellect and the overthrow and death of those creeds that have made enemies of those men who should have been brothers.

And if all this is true, is it not something for which we should be truly grateful? We people in these United States of America, to meet together and know these things and freely discuss them, is this not something we should be grateful for? As we are enjoying the rich harvest from the seeds sown by such pioneers as Socrates, Jesus, Martineau, Darwin, Huxley, Emerson and a host of others, let us not forget that we also must till the ground and sow the seeds for a continuation of that harvest. Our responsibilities are great and pressing, and oftimes we do not realize them or act up to them. Let us not weary at the task; but let each one of us critically examine himself and ask the question: "What am I individually doing for the cause?" Then let each and every one of us assume a definite share of the load, and the glorious future is assured.

P. B. AIMER,
Dallas, Texas.

The South Middlesex Federation

The South Middlesex Federation, Young People's Religious Union, held its winter meeting on Sunday, January 21, 1917, at Watertown, Mass. President Mr. Carl B. Wetherell opened the business meeting at five o'clock, in the parish house.

One of the most pleasing reports given was that the Friendly Service Committee had provided for about forty-five persons, at Thanksgiving and at Christmas. Rev. Oscar B. Hawes of Newton Centre, spoke of the Mass Meeting that is to be held in Symphony Hall, on Sunday, February 4. Miss Minnie Packard of Quincy, Mass., was introduced as the speaker of the afternoon. She told of her work as Chairman of the Extension Committee of the Young People's Religious Union. The meeting adjourned shortly after six o'clock, for the social hour, during which supper was served by the Theodore Parker Fraternity.

At the evening service, held in the church, Rev. Charles W. Wendte, D.D., spoke on "What Benefit Did Unitarians Derive from the Evangelistic Meetings?" The hymn, used in closing, was written by Dr. Wendte for Y. P. R. U. meetings.

MILDRED F. KNIGHT,
Secretary.

Union Notes

Cincinnati, Ohio. — The Unity club of this city has recently affiliated with the Young People's Religious Union, and we all are much pleased to welcome this thriving organization to our ranks.

Meadville, Pa. — "As a initial step in the work which I am undertaking here, I am trying to begin a greater conscious unification of our various societies by stimulating correspondence among them and with the administration of the Meadville Federation."

Montpelier, Vt. — "You will be glad to know that my Young People's Society has been organized and is now holding regular meetings, both Sunday evening meetings and business and social meetings."

Unitarian Temperance Society

Rev. EDGAR S. WIERS, *President*, Montclair, N. J.
MR. THOMAS H. ELIOT, *Vice-President*, Lowell, Mass.
Rev. CHESTER A. DRUMMOND, *Secretary*, Somerville, Mass.
CHARLES H. STEARNS, *Treasurer*, Brookline, Mass.

POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

The Boston Federation of Churches has voted to carry on a Post Card Campaign—We hope that soon other Churches and Federations will take up the work.

Below is a new card—Send it to the prominent men of your town. Keep them *thinking* on the subject! Reforms come by making the indifferent *think!*

WATCH FOR A NEW CARD EVERY MONTH!

One year of Prohibition in Denver

Arrests for Drunkenness Decrease 50%.

Divorce cases Decrease 39%

Jails get one prisoner where before they got three.

The *Denver Post*, Dec. 31, 1916.

POST CARD

STAMP HERE.

NEW BUT TRUE!

Prohibition Now Prohibits in Large Cities! Seattle (population), 350,000; Denver, 253,000.

Both these cities voted against State Prohibition.
Both were forced to close their saloons when their states went dry.
Both after trying Prohibition for ten months,

Voted to Stay Dry!

Voted: Seattle (1914) wet by 14,625. Denver (1914) wet by 8,000.
Seattle (1916) dry by 18,400. Denver (1916) dry by 11,666.

Unitarian Temperance Society, 25 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

A timely volume by the compiler
of
The Soul of the Bible

The Creed *of* Epictetus

by

ULYSSES L. B. PIERCE, Ph.D.

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